

COAST GUARD CITIES PROGRAM

Current Coast Guard Cities

Grand Haven, MI <http://www.grandhaven.org/>
Eureka, CA <http://www.eurekachamber.com/home.cfm>
Morgan City, LA <http://www.cityofmc.com/>
Mobile, AL <http://www.cityofmobile.org/>
Wilmington, NC <http://www.ci.wilmington.nc.us/>
Newport, OR <http://www.thecityofnewport.net/>
Alameda, CA <http://www.ci.alameda.ca.us/>

The Coast Guard City program recognizes the communities that support Team Coast Guard across the nation. A city or municipality earns the distinction of being named “A Coast Guard City” by making special efforts to acknowledge the professional work of the Coast Guard men and women assigned to their area. Coast Guard Cities regularly reaching out to Coast guard personnel and their families and make them feel “at home at their home away from home.” The city’s efforts illustrate a longstanding and enduring relationship with an emphasis on considerations the community has made for the members of the Coast Guard family.

How to apply

A great application documents a city’s support of the Coast Guard in a sustained manner over a significant period of time. At the minimum, an application must include

- a letter from the mayor or city manager,
- a narrative of no more than two pages describing its relationship with the local Coast Guard unit(s) in terms that would be indicative of a proactive, systematic outreach and support agenda based on community-wide efforts.
- a separate document listing specific examples of actions the community has taken and events it has sponsored that would be descriptive of how it has reached out to Coast Guard personnel, welcomed them into the community, and embraced them in a full community partnership.

In addition, successful applications often include letters of support from other local organizations that take part in the community’s support for the Coast Guard. Examples include city government, Chamber of Commerce, non-government organizations (e.g., Navy League), civic organizations (e.g., Lions, Kiwanis, etc.), corporate, police/sheriffs/fire departments, EMS, educational organizations, or individuals.

The request should be signed by the mayor or city manager and mailed to:

Commandant (G-I)
2100 Second St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20593.

Upon receipt, the application will be reviewed by a committee representing various parts of the Coast Guard, with input from local Coast Guard commands. The committee makes

a recommendation to the Commandant, who then either approves or disapproves the request. The Congressional committees with oversight responsibilities for the Coast Guard then have an opportunity to respond to the request to make a Coast Guard City designation. After a 90-day Congressional notification period, the designation becomes official for a five-year, renewable term.

For more information

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Coast Guard Community Relations at 202-267-2870.

FAQs:

Can more than one local jurisdictions share a Coast Guard City designation?

In areas with more than one local jurisdiction (such as a city, county, and township) one municipality must be selected to receive the Coast Guard City designation. Below is information that will be helpful to you as you begin the application process.

Can a Coast Guard Unit nominate its host community as a Coast Guard City?

No; the application must come from the city itself. Local units may educate the host community about the program and help local leaders obtain more information on how to apply. Ultimately, however, the initiative should be undertaken by the community, independent of the local command. Local commands will be asked for their input once the application is received at Coast Guard Headquarters.

My city has recently been named a Coast Guard City and I would like to design a flag that incorporates the Coast Guard emblem. Does the design have to be approved?

Yes. Any use of the Coast Guard emblem must be approved by Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Public Affairs Manual guidance on Coast Guard City designation

“A COAST GUARD CITY” DESIGNATIONS.

1. **Purpose.** The Commandant takes great pride in the many services provided by the men and women of the Coast Guard to American citizens in general and, in particular, to the residents of the communities in which they are assigned. It is the intent of this program, in accordance with federal law, to provide for the recognition of those cities that, in return, have made special efforts to acknowledge the professional work of the Coast Guard men and women assigned to their area by regularly reaching out to them and their families and making them feel “at home at their home away from home.” Such efforts should be indicative of a longstanding and enduring relationship with an emphasis on considerations the community has made for the members of the Coast Guard family and their dependents. This document provides information as to how a city or municipality may submit a request to be designated “A Coast Guard City” and to provide the range of requirements to be met in order to be considered for such designation.

2. Background. On November 13, 1998, a law was enacted that allowed the city of Grand Haven, MI, to formally be called “Coast Guard City, USA” (Section 409 of P.L. 105-383). That law also provides for other cities to be similarly designated with a 90-day notice of intent from the Commandant to the two authorizing congressional committees. In accordance with that provision, on 3 June 2000, Eureka, CA, became the second city to receive the tribute and was proclaimed “A Coast Guard City.” Grand Haven’s designation was based on their 75-year-long history of extraordinary support for Coast Guard personnel assigned to the Grand Haven area. Eureka’s designation, likewise, was based on a multi- year history of community sensitivity to the needs of the local Coast Guard personnel and the many actions they took and activities they sponsored each year to benefit the Coast Guard personnel in their area. While formal criteria did not exist for the designations of either Grand Haven or Eureka, the precedence of those actions provided de facto criteria for future considerations. It should be noted that neither designation focused on the size of the local Coast Guard community nor on what the Coast Guard personnel, either active duty or retired, contributed as volunteers to community projects. However, for the purpose of consideration for future designations of Coast Guard Cities, weight will be given to partnerships on local community projects that would be indicative of a robust, on- going relationship between the community as a whole and the local Coast Guard unit or units.

3. Procedures. A city or municipality must make formal request by letter, signed by the mayor or city manager, addressed to Commandant (G-I), 2100 Second St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20593. The request must include a narrative of no more than two pages describing its relationship with the local Coast Guard unit(s) in terms that would be indicative of a proactive, systematic outreach and support agenda based on community-wide efforts. In addition, the city must provide a separate document listing specific examples of actions the community has taken and events it has sponsored that would be descriptive of how it has reached out to Coast Guard personnel, welcomed them into the community, and embraced them in a full community partnership. A board comprised of Commandant (G-I), (G-CMCPO), (G-IPA), (G-ICA), (CG-11), (CG-12), and (G-LGL) will review the request, consider recommendations from the appropriate field commands and, should the request meet the requirements detailed below, provide a recommendation to the Commandant. Upon approval by the Commandant, the appropriate congressional committees will be notified and a required 90-day waiting period will begin. With no dissent from either committee, the requesting city will be proclaimed to be “A Coast Guard City.” The proclamation will have a five-year term after which the city will be required to apply for recertification. Recertification is an abbreviated form of the procedures required for the original request in that the city need only provide a letter six months prior to the end of the five-year term describing its on-going relationship with the Coast Guard with examples of their recent programs and projects. As with the original request, letters requesting recertification should be addressed to Commandant (G-I), and go before the Board. The designation of “A Coast Guard City” may, for cause, be rescinded with 60 days notification issued by Commandant (G-I).

4. Requirements. A city’s request will be judged against the following list of actions and

programs that are examples of the types of support shown Coast Guard personnel in cities where the Coast Guard serves. It is not necessary for a city to have initiated nor replicated every one of the actions listed. Rather, a city should be able to demonstrate that its people and the community at large have consistently reached out to the local Coast Guard command(s) in a manner that would include, but not be limited to, a number of the initiatives below. In addition, the request should specify which groups or organizations within the community are responsible for, or participated in, the initiatives. They could include city government, Chamber of Commerce, non-government organizations (e.g., Navy League), civic organizations (e.g., Lions, Kiwanis, etc.), corporate, police/sheriffs/fire departments, EMS, educational organizations, or individuals.

- a. Support for MWR events.
- b. Support for educational/scholarship programs.
- c. Availability of community support services to Coast Guard members and their families.
- d. Sponsorship of Sailor of the Quarter, Sailor of the Year, Recruiter of the Year, and other similar types of awards.
- e. Demonstrations of sensitivity to life-altering events within the Coast Guard community including expressions of congratulations for weddings and newborns, and expressions of sympathy or deaths and other family tragedies.
- f. Sponsorship of community patriotic events that specifically include members of the Coast Guard family. These events could include but not be limited to Memorial Day picnics, July Fourth picnics, Armed Forces Day events, Veterans Day observances, Coast Guard Birthday events, etc.
- g. Offer military or Coast Guard "Days" within the business community, at local sporting events, and other entertainment events.
- h. City-Coast Guard partnerships in community-based projects including law enforcement/fire/EMS projects, civic organizational projects, food drives, home building projects, educational projects, etc.
- i. Establishing monuments, memorials, commemorations, or other tangible forms of public recognition.

5. Information. Questions regarding this program should be directed to the Community Relations Branch of the Office of Public Affairs in Coast Guard Headquarters (G-IPA-3).